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*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice limited to
Federal Agencies

December 29, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/474,127; Filed: December 29, 1999
For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**
Inventors: OKADA *et al.*
Our Ref: 0666.023000E/TGD/ALF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment & Reply Under C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. One (1) post card.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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ALF/bls
Enclosures

346730_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

OKADA *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/474,127

Filed: December 29, 1999

For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**

Confirmation No.: 1901

Art Unit: 3611

Examiner: DePumpo, Daniel G.

Atty. Docket: 0666.023000E/TGD/ALF

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated October 19, 2004, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.